

Testimony regarding:

SB#2 An Act Concerning Social Equity in the Health Safety and Education of Children  
Public Hearing March 9, 2021

My name is Mary E. Burnham I'm a retired educator, mother, and now grandmother.  
I have some major concerns about senate bill #2 An Act Concerning Social Equity in the Health Safety and Education of Children

My biggest concern is the fact that students can have six sessions of mental health treatment without parental consent.

Who will determine if a child will receive the six sessions?

What criteria will be used?

The relationship a patient has with a therapist is very important and unique. So, who chooses an appropriate therapist for any child?

Who will select the treatment methodology that will be administered?

Although there may be some parents who resist therapy for their children – those situations should be dealt with on an individual basis.

In my opinion, this is no reason to put this into a bill. There are so many ways this “referral of 6 sessions” could be misused and/or abused.

Removing parents from these very important decisions, I am very fearful that this will end up being extremely harmful to children and families.

Another concern is how teachers are going to be able to evaluate if a student is living in a hardship situation. How can they possibly determine this? What criteria will they use?

Respectfully,

Mary E. Burnham  
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